

How can the Vocabulary Knowledge Scale be used to Assess Reading?

Vocabulary Knowledge Scale is a simple informal assessment that can be used to assess a student's knowledge of words that they need to know. Students are given a list of words and are asked to rate the words depending on how well they know them. This process helps them recall words, and also provides an opportunity for the teacher to introduce and discuss words that students may not know.

A sample vocabulary knowledge scale would look like this:

Word	Know it well	Have seen /heard it	Don't know it
Enhance			
Freedom			
Pedestrian			

Students may also add comments under the columns. Under "Know it well" they can write the meaning of the word. Under the column "Have seen /heard it" they can be asked to write about where they have heard it, or what they know about the word.

Vocabulary Recognition Task

Write a list of 25 words, 18 of which are related to the content of a particular curriculum unit (ex. Insects) and 7 are unrelated distracters. Students are directed to circle the words they are able to read that are related to the unit. Students are scored on their correct “hits” versus “false alarms”. Studies showed that this type of assessment more accurately measured students; word knowledge than traditional multiple-choice tests. In addition, it gives teachers useful feedback on how successfully they have conveyed content knowledge.